

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification by replacing the existing page 1 with the attached new page 1.

VENEER FACE PLWOOD FLOORING AND METHODS OF MAKING THE SAME

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/903,549, filed
5 July 13, 2001, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/218,666, filed July
17, 2000, the complete disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD AND INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY OF THE INVENTION

The present application relates to fabricated wood to be used as flooring panels having
10 the strength and outer surface finish of traditional hardwood boards, but exhibiting increased
flexibility, and a lower cost than similar boards. The present invention further comprises a
method of manufacturing the same.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 The shortness of resources for providing a good quality lumber to be used for
domestic purposes, such as solid hardwood floors, has forced the pricing of such products to be
high. In response to these high costs, attempts have been made to manufacture wood flooring
panels from other less expensive resources. Flooring panels manufactured using these types of
wood typically comprise a core layer constructed from a plurality of single rotary cut sheets of
20 veneer or the like. These sheets are layered on top of each other such that the grain directions
thereof are perpendicular to one another to impart strength and rigidity, and bonded together.
Additionally, a single rotary cuty or strand board veneer sheet made from the same or different
wood material, may be bonded on the surface of these core panels to provide an aesthetic finish,
as disclosed in Iwata et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,506,026.

25 However upon manufacturing floor panels from individual sheets as described above,
some amounts of shrinkage of the sheets typically occurs from the effects of